

## Claims

What is claimed is:

1. In a subscriber unit capable of wireless communication with an infrastructure thereby providing voice communications between a user of the subscriber unit and another person via the infrastructure, the infrastructure comprising a speech recognition server, a method comprising steps of:

engaging in a voice communication between the user of the subscriber unit and the other person via the infrastructure;

locally detecting, during the voice conversation, an interrupt indicator; and

activating, in response to the interrupt indicator, a portion of a speech recognition element to begin processing voice-based commands, wherein the speech recognition element is implemented at least in part within the infrastructure.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of locally detecting further comprises a step of: activating an input device forming a part of the subscriber unit to provide the interrupt indicator.

3. The method claim 2, wherein the step of activating the input device comprises a step of activating any of a button, a selector and a menu-driven input device.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of locally detecting further comprises steps of: locally monitoring the voice communication, via a local speech recognizer implemented within the subscriber unit, for at least one predetermined utterance; and providing the interrupt indicator upon detecting one of the at least one predetermined utterance.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of activating the portion of the speech recognition element comprises a step of:

activating a speech recognition client implemented within the subscriber unit,

wherein the speech recognition client and the speech recognition server cooperate to provide the speech recognition element.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising a step of:  
providing, by the speech recognition client, parameterized speech information to the speech recognition server.
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of:  
providing, to the user, an indication that the portion of the speech recognition element has been activated.
8. The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of:  
providing, to the speech recognition server, an indication that the portion of the speech recognition element has been activated.

9. A subscriber unit that wirelessly communicates with an infrastructure, the subscriber unit comprising:

a detector for locally detecting presence of an interrupt indicator during a voice communication between the subscriber unit and the infrastructure; and

a portion of a speech recognition element that takes as input the presence of the interrupt indicator and, being activated by the presence of the interrupt indicator, begins processing voice-based commands, wherein the speech recognition element is implemented at least in part within the infrastructure.

10. The subscriber unit of claim 9, further comprising:

an input device, coupled to the detector, that provides the interrupt indicator when activated.

11. The subscriber unit of claim 10, wherein the input device comprises any of a button, a selector and a menu-driven input device.

12. The subscriber unit of claim 9, wherein the detector comprises a local speech recognizer that monitors the voice communication for at least one predetermined utterance and that detects the presence of the interrupt indicator upon detecting one of the at least one predetermined utterance.

13. The subscriber unit of claim 9, wherein the portion of the speech recognition element comprises a speech recognition client, and wherein the speech recognition client and a speech recognition server implemented within the infrastructure cooperate to provide the speech recognition element.

14. The subscriber unit of claim 9, further comprising:

an annunciator, responsive to the interrupt indicator, for indicating that the portion of the speech recognition element has been activated.

15. The subscriber unit of claim 9, further comprising:

a wireless transceiver that transmits, to the infrastructure, parameterized speech information provided by the portion of the speech recognition element.

16. The subscriber unit of claim 15, wherein the wireless transceiver transmits an indication, to the infrastructure, that the portion of the speech recognition element has been activated.

17. A wireless communication system comprising at least one subscriber unit in wireless communication with an infrastructure, the wireless communication system comprising:

within each of the at least one subscriber unit:

a detector for locally detecting the presence of an interrupt indicator during a voice communication between one of the at least one subscriber unit and the infrastructure;

a speech recognition client that takes as input the presence of the interrupt indicator and, being activated by the presence of the interrupt indicator, begins processing voice-based commands; and

a speech recognition server, within the infrastructure, that cooperates with the speech recognition client to provide a speech recognition element.

18. The wireless communication system of claim 17, wherein the at least one subscriber unit comprises a radio telephone.

19. The wireless communication system of claim 17, wherein the at least one subscriber unit comprises an in-vehicle wireless communication device.

20. In a speech recognition server forming a part of an infrastructure and a part of a speech recognition element, the infrastructure in wireless communication with at least one subscriber unit, a method comprising steps of:

receiving, from a subscriber unit of the at least one subscriber unit, speech information provided in response to local detection, at the subscriber unit, of an interrupt indicator during a voice communication; and

performing speech recognition processing based on the speech information.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising steps of:

receiving, from the subscriber unit, an indication that a portion of the speech recognition element has been activated; and

initiating speech recognition processing based on the indication.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein the interrupt indicator is provided by activating, at the subscriber unit, an input device.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein the interrupt indicator is provided by locally monitoring, at the subscriber unit, the voice communication for at least one predetermined utterance.

24. The method of claim 20, further comprising a step of:

processing the speech information to provide parameterized speech information,

wherein the speech recognition processing is based on the parameterized speech information.

25. A speech recognition server for use in an infrastructure that is in wireless communication with at least one subscriber unit, the speech recognition server comprising:

a receiver that takes as input speech information received from a subscriber unit of the at least one subscriber unit in response to local detection, at the subscriber unit, of an interrupt indicator during a voice communication; and  
a speech recognition analyzer that performs speech recognition processing based on the speech information.

26. The speech recognition server of claim 25, wherein the receiver further operates to receive, from the subscriber unit, an indication that a portion of a speech recognition element has activated, and wherein the indication initiates speech recognition processing.

27. The speech recognition server of claim 25, wherein the interrupt indicator is provided by activating, at the subscriber unit, an input device.

28. The speech recognition server of claim 25, wherein the interrupt indicator is provided by locally monitoring, at the subscriber unit, the voice communication for at least one predetermined utterance.

29. The speech recognition server of claim 25, wherein the speech recognition analyzer processes the speech information to provide parameterized speech information and the speech recognition processing is based on the parameterized speech information.